# California. GARDEN

FORTY-SECOND YEAR

**AUTUMN 1951** 

VOLUME 42, NO. 3

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#### CALIFORNIA GARDEN

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Under the sponsorship of The Park and Recreation Dept., City of San Diego

Editor ......Mabel Hazard

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#### CALENDAR of EVENTS

Unless otherwise stated, the following meetings will be held in the Floral Association Building, southwest of the Organ in Balboa Park.

#### **SEPTEMBER**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 . . 1 to 5 p. m. Open House and Exhibit.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 . . 8 p. m. Rosecroft Begonia Gardens. Chat and demonstration on begonia culture. Mrs. Kathering Hunter, speaker. Box supper 6 p.m.

#### **OCTOBER**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7 . . . 1 to 5 p. m. Open House and Exhibit.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16 . . . 8 p. m. Dr. Reginald Poland to speak-subject to be announced later.

#### NOVEMBER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4 . . 1 to 5 p. m Open House and Exhibit.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20 . . 8 p. m. William De Hahn, speaker: "What's New in Horticulture."

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGE-MENT, AND CIRCULATION REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946 (Title 39, United States Code, Section 233) of CALIFORNIA GARDEN published Quarterly at San Diego, California for Winter, 1950. Publisher: San Diego Floral Association, Balboa Park, San Diego, California. Editor: Mabel Hazard.

# California Garden

Forty-Second Year

AUTUMN, 1951

Volume 42, No. 3

In our persisting state of drought, we may turn more and more to the succulents which Mr. Hottes describes in a reprint from Horticulture, February, 1951.

# Camels of the Plant World

Alfred C. Hottes

To the connoisseur of beautiful plants, succulents rank as a large group of easily grown floral gems with marvelous color in foliage and flower—often brilliant, often so subtle that the casual observer may not see these delicate tones.

The term succulent is often confusing, even to experienced gardeners. It is of Latin origin meaning juice, but in the horticultural world, the succulent is described as a thick fleshy plant, and refers to many kinds besides cacti. Plants that store water and those that are able to resist droughts are generally included in this classification.

The plants described here are not cacti, because none of them has the primary characteristics of the cactus family, which are: (1) generally no leaves, (2) numerous spines in clusters, (3) countless stamens on flowers which show little difference between the sepals and petals.

The rosette plants you will see are: Sempervivum, hardy, star-like flowers, opening flat; Echeveria, tender, with translucent windows on ends of the leaves; Mesembryanthemum, very juicy leaves and many petalled flowers; Aeonium, rosettes on stems (Sempervivums are flat on the soil).

If you see a four-petal succulent it is, generally, a *Kalanchoe;* a six-

petal flower it is an *Agave*, *Aloe* or *Haworthia*; the others have mainly multiples of five petals.

If you see a star-like flower less than ¾ inch in diameter it is a Sedum; if it has five petals and 10 stamens, it is a Crassula; if it has five petals and also five stamens, it is an Aeonium; while a Sempervivum has more than five petals and stamens.

#### KINDS TO GROW

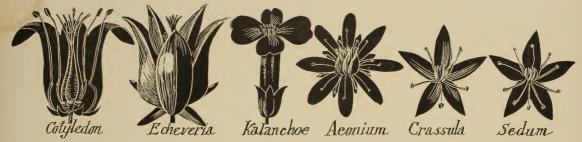
Mesembryanthemum (Fig-marigold). The name means mid-day flower, and refers to the fact that many of the sorts do not open until the sun is high. A time-clock could be made of the various species because each blooms at a rather definite time of the day. These plants are very juicy and with the usual watering given to house plants, they soon die. Most sorts thrive on utter neglect. Botanists are not willing to call the majority of these plants by the name of Mesembryanthemum, but place the species in a dozen or more genera.

Those with large hair-like teeth on the leaves are known as tigersclaw, or *Faucaria*; those which are difficult to tell from the surrounding rocks are called living-rocks, stone-plants, *Lithops* and *Pleiospilos*; some have pustules which seem like crystals on the leaves

such as in the common annual iceplant, Cryophytum; or perhaps only the appearance of being dewsprinkled, known as Dewplants, Drosanthemum; or the unbelievable baby-toes, Fenestraria, which are a cluster of little cylinders with a membrane, like a window at the top. The majority bear flowers with numerous, hair-like petals and numerous stamens. Golden yellow is the predominant color but some are white, others have the most brilliant eye-offending crimsons, oranges, and roses known to the world of nature.

Stapelia (carrion-flower, starfish-flower). These strange African plants lack the usual leaves; the green branches, often fourangled, serve as leaves. The flowers are large stars, generally fetid, often marked with bars of darkest red, maroon, and often with many hairs. The commonest sort is Stapelia variegata. It varies greatly in the markings, but the flowers are two to three inches across. S. gigantea, however, produces flowers even 16 inches across. In these giant blossoms flies lay their eggs mistaking them for spoiled meat. The eggs hatch and the maggots die for lack of

Sempervivum (house-leeks). These lovely rosettes of pointed



leaves form comfortable colonies, are often rosy, purple or gray tinted foliage. They seem better adapted to coolness, even freezing weather, and are seldom seen as house plants or in the gardens of Southern California. The common hen-and-chickens is Sempervivum tectorum, a plant grown on the thatched roof of England, hence the name house-leek and the species name tectorum, which means roof. Particularly interesting is the cobweb house-leek, S. arachnoideum, which produces little rosettes less than an inch in diameter covered with cobweb-like hairs connecting the leaves.

Aeonium. From the Canary Islands and adjacent regions come the largest of rosettes. In Southern California, where they are perfectly at home, one sees them several feet in diameter and with giant clusters of flowers over three feet tall. Th flowers are mainly yellow, white, or flushed pink. They seem like both Sedums and Sempervivums, but the rosettes are borne

upon definite branches standing above the soil.

Crassula. One may easily confuse Crassulas with Sedums, but Crassulas have five petals and stamens, whereas Sedums have five petals, but 10 stamens. Everyone is familiar with the jade-plant, Crassula argentea, from South Africa, with its very thick, oval, juicy leaves and popular as a dish garden plant. It assumes tree-like proportions in warm regions, and in December is covered with masses of pale pink flowers. Crassula lactea makes a good pot plant, with compact clusters of white flowers and with thick leaves which seem hemstitched along the edges as they have a series of white dots just inside the margins. Amusing is the buttons-on-a-string, Crassula rupestris, the opposite leaves are connected at their bases and seem to be strung on the stems.

Sedum (stonecrop). Many species of Sedums are well-known for their masses of tiny or large foliage and the profusion of yel-

low, pink, or white flowers. Perhaps the handsomest sort for pot culture is *Sedum sieboldi*, with its three-parted, blue-green foliage and pink flowers in the Autumn. Ideal for an Autumn-blooming edging plant is the showy stonecrop, *S. spectabile* variety, Brilliant, with its thick leaves, several inches long and wide, and its masses of bright rose flowers. For indoor culture try *S. nussbaumerianum* (adolphi) the leaves of which are bright orange in full sun.

Gasteria (oxtongue, lawyerstongue). The flowers are tubular, but unlike Aloes, they have a bulge at the base, hence the name Gasteria which refers to this little belly. The leaves are variously spotted with white in bands, or even in raised dots known as tuberculate. Some facetious gardener has said that these are the lies on the lawyer's tongue. The leaves arise in one plane, or that is, unlike other succulents, they do not radiate out in several directions.

Kalanchoe and Bryophyllum







Many of these plants normally produce plants from the notches in their leaves, hence the commonest sort is known as air-plant or life-plant, Kalanchoe pinnata. It has leathery leaves, either simple or with three to five divisions. Eventually there is a cluster of bellshaped, pendant, reddish flowers, with a large inflated reddish calyx. A hairy leaf sort, K. aliciae, is beautiful, with its orange flowers veined red. When the flower cluster is past bloom it becomes a mass of young plants which drop to the soil and grow. K. blossfeldiana is seen as a Christmas plant, with its red or green leaves and large clusters of scarlet flowers. An amazing big plant is K. beharensis, often called Kitchingia, has leaves that are felty chocolate-brown or green, up to 18 inches long, deeply or shallowly lobed.

Aloe. These plants are not wild in the Western hemisphere. The flowers are bright scarlet, tubular cylindrical. Many are spiny, margined rosettes, and they are a prominent feature of the cultivated landscape of the Mediterranean region and in Southern California. One sees Aloe arborescens as a pot plant with narrow, watery, prickly margined leaves. Bailey calls attention to the pronunciation: a-lo-ee' for the Latin name, al'o, for the English.

Haworthia (includes so-called

window-plants). These African plants are of two groups very unlike except in flower: some species are rosettes of very juicy leaves with translucent areas at the tip, such as Haworthia retusa; other species have long pointed leaves which are generally banded with white raised dots, such as H. margaritifera. The flowers are not very showy, an off-white with six perianth segments. In their native habitat, they become covered with sand so that these little windows in the leaves serve to allow the light to enter to the center of the leaves.

Agave (century plant). These plants are natives of the Western Hemisphere and belong in a separate family, the Agavaceae. The common name, century plant, refers to the tardy bloom of Agave americana, but that they bloom only when a hundred years old is fallacious. It is said that they flower when six years old in their own native habitat, but as conservatory plants perhaps 50 years are needed. Curiously enough they die after flowering.

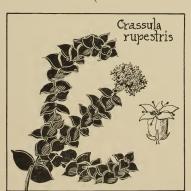
The very nature of succulents is to store water when they can get it and save for a dry day. As house plants they thrive with a minimum of water when they are not in active growth. This varies in season with the different sorts. The writer kept a plant of *Kalan*-

choe fedtschenkoi in a sunny window in an olive bottle without soil, and gave the cutting a tablespoonful of water whenever the plant seemed to be ready to die. For two years it had less than a tablespoonful of water every two months. Plants were produced on the leaves and little plantlets on these little plants. Mesembryanthemums seem to be the most drought-resistant of those mentioned.

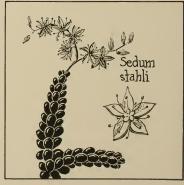
We may use humus in the potting soil, but perhaps active manure had best be avoided. Some find sponge rock mixed with some soil an excellent medium.

Many of the sorts take less strong sun than one might expect, because in nature the plants are often found on the shaded side of a shrub. *Gasterias* and *Haworthias* like less bright conditions than some others, whereas it is well to give *Mesembryanthemums* the full exposure. *Aeoniums* become leggy in the atmosphere of a home.

The leaves of Echeverias, Cotyledons, some Sedums and Kalanchoes root readily. Gasteria leaves may be cut into several pieces and inserted in sand. One such leaf section produced a dozen plants for the writer. Stem cuttings can be used for most sorts such as Sedum, Echeveria, Cotyledon and Mesembryanthemum. Many genera produce numerous runners or offsets.







Mr. Snyder likens our conservation inertia to the barbarism of the Roman soldiers, to the destructiveness of the Huns in Alexandria and to the despoiling of Mexican and Peruvian culture by the Spaniards. Yet he feels that through "educational experiencing" we show a trend toward sound conservation education.

## Increasing Conservation Education

PETER H. SNYDER

The work of the City Schools is directed toward both the children and the adults of the community, but need for adoption of practical measures for conservation is so urgent that we dare not wait for the youth of the land to assume the leadership.

You will perhaps be interested in some of the trends in modern public education, an din the stresses and strains that influence trends. For the problems that face Conservation Education are identical with problems that face all public education.

As of 1951, we can point to a very definite trend that Conservation Education is on the increase. There is even an indication that it will be interesting. The U. S. Soil Conservation Service has been credited with the idea of taking the drabness out of Government Publications.

Members of the Floral Society and of the Society of Natural History, together with those who have read William Vogt's Road to Survival or Fairfield Osborne's Our Plundered Planet are not surprised at such a trend. The need is so great that the New York State Board of Education calls it "Survival Education!"

But although the trend is there, the achievement is slow. The need is paramount—*survival*—but the organization and implementation of ideas are slow. The cry goes out, but the answer is slow.

Let us examine this problem. Let us examine it, not as experts in science or professional education, but sociologically—as members of a common culture of the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries.

First of all there is the element of inertia—the inertia of rest. One might rather say "inertness." It is illustrated by the story of the farmer who refused the help of the University advisor by saying, "I already *knows* more than I *does*, so what fur?"

All our society suffers from inertia. Most teachers know better methods than they employ—likewise most merchants, or lawyers, or housewives, or plumbers. As members of the 20th century society interested in our futures, we must goad each other on. A teenager would say, "Get off the dime"

More serious than this personal inertia is a societal inertia. This means inertia is discernable in two ways.

In the first place, let a teacher carry out a personal enthusiasm for a fine, new, modern program of conservation teaching and see how quickly the public jerks him back to the so-called fundamentals! As good members of our 20th century social order we must carry our convictions through.

In the second place, let us ask ourselves as working members of our society, "Why is it that the wisdom of wise men takes so long to become the common sense?"

A hundred and eighteen years ago, John James Audubon told our personal ancestors that unless they behaved differently toward the plant and animal life around them we would never know the grandeur of the country as he knew it. They didn't—and we don't!

In 1872 some men of wisdom set aside a portion of our national heritage to be kept forever free from exploitation and preserved for the physical, mental and spiritual enjoyment of all the people. They called it Yellowstone Park. In 1948 the pressure to open that park to grazing and to hunting was almost too great to overcome.

During the years since 1872, wise men at the National level have designated many areas for National Parks and Monuments, each featured by its own particular and inimitable grandeur. Wise men at the state and local levels, particularly in California, have set aside State Parks and refuges for the same general purposes.

But we, the people, are not yet caught up with the wisdom of our wise men.

Did you know that *right now* several of our National Parks and Monuments are threatened with inundation by those who would build dams? Do you realize that many fine meadows in our Cuyamaca and Palomar State parks are threatened by over grazing and some of them are no longer meadows, as we personally once knew them, but are now barren, sandy arroyos?

Do you believe, as I do, that the resignation of Newton B. Drury as Chief of our National Parks was requested on account of his opposition to such despoilage?

As the Roman soldiers killed Archimedes, as the Huns destroyed the books at Alexandria, as the Spaniards despoiled a culture in Mexico and Peru far finer than they themselves had attained—all because of ignorance concerning the thing they attacked—so, we Americans are in the process of destroying something we take for

granted but are grossly ignorant about.

Yet I say there are trends toward the good.

The very numbers of our public that visit our parks and recreational areas tell us a convincing story.

This is not a paper on American Literature, but our changing vocabulary indicates a trend in our thinking that points toward conservation. For example, you have read praises for our pioneers in their attempts to "subdue the wilderness," to "conquer the prairies," to "subjugate the earth" in their "fight against nature."

It may be that such terms were necessary for those times. Modern agricultural language, however, employs such terms as, "cooperate with the elements," "cherish our topsoil," "plan for sustained yield."

Perhaps the greatest trend toward sound Conservation Education is shown by what I should like to call "educational experiencing."

Adults are anticipating the mental and physical build-up that will result from their vacation in the wilderness. Doctors are prescribing vitamins and "a course of sunshine." Dentists are studying the mineralization in the soil that grows our food.

The most thoroughly fascinating program of educational experiencing that has been developed across the country recently is the movement for educational camping.

The National Audubon Society, San Jose State College, The Kellogg Foundation, and many other institutions are promoting or operating "Experience" Camps for adults. Such camps are designed to furnish youth leaders with the proper understanding of the ecological factors of our great out of doors. At the same time the experience offers a mental and spiritual enrichment beyond anything obtainable in cement canyons that

characterize the life zones of metropolitan dwellers.

Educational predictions are extremely risky, but I shall hazard one, as long as we are discussing trends.

I predict that the next ten years will see a tremendous adult education program in Conservation promulgated at no cost through the medium of national advertising. Already firms like Goodyear, Monsanto, Standard Oil, and others are advertising what they are doing by way of conservation. Today's catchword is "Private Enterprise." Tomorrow's will be "Conservation," and they will be bragging about it and telling us what to do as well.

Perhaps I can be converted to advertising if it will dispell the public lassitude that permits John Doe to say, "Oh well, that doesn't affect me, I get my bread at the store!" The public *must* realize that the impact of Conservation (or its lack) is registered by everyone who eats regardless of old or young, rich or poor. If there isn't vitamin in the soil, there isn't vitamin in the food.

I wish I had time to discuss the work of Junior Audubon Clubs, 4-H Clubs, Future Farmers, and similar youth organizations. Mr. Wes H. Klussman, National Program Director of Boy Scouts of America, has just distributed instructions to every Scout Area in North America regarding the new Scout Program for Conservation.

I wish I had time to discuss the wonderful work of the F. & A. O., the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United States. You who despair of the slow moving politics of the Security Council may take heart at the scope and influence of F. & A. O.

We cannot see too far ahead, but we must never fail to look ahead.

We are the last generation of the earth-borne. Tomorrow's generation is air-borne. We may be the last to depend on Providence for water. Tomorrow's courts may be deciding riparian rights to seeded clouds.

Let us join with Walter D. Lowdermilk in crusading the Eleventh Commandment: "Thou shalt inherit the holy earth as a faithful steward, conserving its resources and productivity from generation to generation. Thou shalt safeguard thy fields from soil erosion, thy living waters from drying up or pollution, thy forests from desolation, and protect thy hills from overgrazing by the herds, that thy descendants may have abundance forever."

## New Horticultural Pamphlets

By Ada McLouth

Request from California Agricultural Extension Service. University of California. Berkeley. 22 Giannini Hall.

Rose Culture in California, by H. M. Butterfield. 1950. Cir. 148. Growing Begonias in California, by H. M. Butterfield. 1950. Cir. 162

Camellia Culture in California, by H. M. Butterfield. 1950. Cir. 164.

These circulars, each about forty pages, have many useful illustrations, drawings, tables.

Purchase from Documents Sec. Printing Div., 11th and O Streets, Sacramento, California.

Weeds in California. Revised edition. California Department of Agriculture. 1951, \$5,15.

This book will be reviewed later.

Mrs. McClinton, former San Diegan, now of 140 Park Avenue, Bronxville, New York, feels that we have much to learn from the Chinese in their art of flower arranging.

## Chinese Flower Arrangements

KATHERINE MORRISON McCLINTON

In their own clever little way the Iapanese flower masters seem to have stolen the glory from the Chinese. They have made rules and set them down for all to read and follow and we have followed their one, two, three, stylized arrangements and quite overlooked the older art of Chinese flower arrangements. When each flower show only seems to bring forth rather tiresome inspirations from the Japanese or copies of the really clever Coca Cola arrangements, I suggest a glance at older sources which in turn take us back to old Mother Nature, the real remedy needed for all satiated art.

The first Chinese flower arrangers were Buddhist priests who gathered the broken blossoms after a storm and placed them in vases in front of the Buddhist altar. This flower worship and symbolism that grew out of the Buddhist Saints' solicitude for any living thing finally resolved itself into certain formalized flower arrangements. However, in China, where it originated, there was never the set formalism that is found in arrangments by the flower masters of Japan. Naturalness is paramount in Chinese flower arrangement. The binding of roots or branches, a common practice in Japanese flower arrangement, is considered sacrilegious to the Chinese, for whom the greatest beauty is to be found in naturalness.

As in Chinese painting, source book for Chinese flower arrangement, a rhythmic vitality was of utmost importance. The flower arrangers sought to follow the rule of flower painting which states— "Flowers shall be sensitive blossoms unfolding on pliant upgrowing stems." This growth and organic structure of the plant or flower was sought, so that the arrangement seemed to be alive and growing rather than a cut specimen. Growth was suggested by use not only of full flowers, but by buds, leaves and seed pods as well.

The Chinese love large and strongly perfumed flowers, such as the peony. They also love bright and colorful flowers, and their arrangements are bold and colorful in contrast to the neutral and restrained colors of the average Japanese flower arrangement.

Every flower is selected for its own beauty rather than for the design of the whole. Thus, there is a tendency to use the flower material as it grows, and it is important ito select a good flower or branch before it is picked, rather than depend upon the use of shears while making the arrangement.

Since Chinese flower arrangement is so dependent upon Chinese painting, there is a calligraphic quality—a flowing rhythm of line and always a careless simplicity.

As in Chinese painting, there is a feeling both of the spiritual and the material, the natural outgrowth of which is a certain amount of symbolism, more interesting than important to a Western flower arranger. Each season is represented by a typical flower. Thus, the peony means spring; the lotus is used for summer; the chrysanthemum for autumn; and the plum for winter. Bamboo twigs, narcissus, a group of peaches, and the sacred fungus all

suggest immortality. The pine bamboo and prunus suggest longevity, while the peony suggests wealth and honors, as does the peacock feather often seen arranged in a vase with sprays of coral.

A flower calendar in China tabulates the flowers as follows:

Prunus—January, Peach—F e b - ruary, Tree Peony—March, Cherry
—April, Magnolia—May, Pomegranate—June, Lotus—July, Pear
—August, Mallow — September, Chrysanthemum — October, Gardenia—November, Peony — December.

Of course, there are many other flowers native to China seen in typical Chinese flower arrangements. These include the iris, jasments, begonia, hibiscus, syringa, japonica, narcissus, or water fairy flower, wistaria, orchid, and the guelder rose.

The Chinese use unusual and exotic flower combinations. I think a list of some of these combinations will serve more than anything else to show that Chinese flower artistry, while somewhat related to the Japanese in that they both grew from the same Buddhist source, is a separate and distinct art. Especially interesting is the combination of fruit and flowers, nuts and flowers, and of growing grasses and flowers, as well as flowers and fungus growing on stems. A whole series of arrangements includes flowers and rockery or flowers and pieces of dead wood. Here is a list of some of the unusual combinations used again and again by the Chinese and seen on porcelains or wherever representations of flower arrangements are shown.

AUTUMN 1951

Bamboo and blossoms, bamboo and pine; onions, narcissus, horsechestnut and cherries in a bowl; mushroom, onions and chrysanthemums; grapes, orchids and chrysanthemums; peonies, walnuts, daisies, and marigolds; hydrangea and wistaria; poppy, hemrocallis, and morning glory; loquat, litchi nuts, and rocks. Many arrangements show growing grasses in a low bowl with one tall branch of a blossoming tree.

In a porcelain basket, peonies, daisies and a pomegranate are arranged. In another basket, a combination of guelder rose, hydrangea and bleeding heart.

A rockery often forms the important part of an arrangement with flowers, secondary but enhanced by the jagged rock formation and growing grasses. Sometimes the rockery is used as a foil for fruit and leaves, or a bowl of cucumbers and yellow squash may be set beside it. One exotic arrangement shows a pineapple used as a vase with cactus leaves and chrysanthemums arranged in it.

Chinese containers for holding flowers are interesting and colorful. There is a distinct class known as bulb bowls and flower pots. These were meant primarily to have growing bulbs or shrubs. The flower pots are deep and have pottery saucers. They have both squared and circular contours and are usually fluted with scalloped tops. Bulb bowls are low containers, round, rectangular or sometimes hexagonal. These flower pots and bulb bowls are often found in some of the most beautiful pottery and in such colors as rose purple, cherry apply red, aubergine, plumbloom, sky blue and other unique colors such as onion blue, dove grav, olive, lavendar gray, magenta and a pinkish gray.

Flower vases vary greatly in design, and in size from two inches to five or six feet. Some are round and swelling. Some have bulging perforated sides meant to have flowers showing through the sides as well as an arrangement at the top of the vase. Fish bowls are used for water lillies. There are hanging porcelain vases in a teakwood stand, and flatbacked vases for hanging on the wall. Some tall vases have square shoulders, others have round shoulders, and some have long necks and large bulbs. A tall thin garlic-neck bottle is designed especially for a single spray or flowering branch. Many of these vases are decorated with floral patterns so that the task of arranging flowers in them is somewhat difficult, but where the design on the vase is small and the flowers used are large, the flowers can usually be made dominant.

If you would learn that difficult task of arranging flowers in a basket, study the Chinese for the basket is a favorite container with them. Baskets may be porcelain or wicker and they may be hanging or sitting on a table.

In China a bowl or vase of flowers is seldom placed on a table alone. Instead, there is always a still life grouping which includes a bowl of fruit, or an incense burner or various utensils, such as jars of scrolls, or perhaps just a group of different sized and shaped vases or a potpourri jar. This still life arrangement in connection with the vase of flowers is one of the most interesting features of Chinese flower arrangement.

I think the most valuable lesson that we have to learn from Chinese flower art is that of color, and especially notable are the charming and unusual contrasts between flowers, and containers.

Christmas isn't too far away and we are already showing some, at least, of the exciting things we have to suggest for the festive season. A little later - after Thanksgiving - we will have a sumptuous collection of those Christmas decorations for which we have become famous.

# GERARD and SANDS

1268 Prospect St. La Jolla

THE GREEN DRAGON COLONY Henry sidetracks Marion, on her way to plant bulbs, as he finds some quotables in her notebook.

# Leaves from the Observer's Notebook

Henry chuckled. His chuckle was so infectious that, although I was headed for the garden with planting intentions, I turned about, and came and leaned over the back of his chair to find the cause of his merriment.

He had picked up my notebook—the one in which I keep clippings, poems, bits of description, felicitous words—in short, ideas to share with my friends.

"Listen to this one from the Atlantic Monthly by Marion Sturges-Jones," he said, and read:

#### GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE

My husband loves our garden, but I find, when it gets weedy,

I find, when it gets weedy, He either feels too good to work, Or else he feels too seedy.

Leaning over his shoulder I turned the pages of the notebook. "Here's one for the arm-chair traveler," I said, pointing to Vie Horton's summing up of New Orleans before she left for South America.

#### NEW ORLEANS

Oysters Rockefeller,

Pompano in paper sacks— Crepe Suzettes at Antoine's— Balconies of wrought iron with cupids, swans, and fleur de lis Praline shops as thick as saloons

Praline shops as thick as saloons Ancestors piled five feet high in cemeteries—

High ceilings and lovely windows—

Huge, gorgeous old mirrors— Narrow streets — much hornblowing—

Many letters, flowers, telegrams "All ashore that's going ashore" and now "I'm rolling down to Rio!"

Henry continued to thumb his

MARION ALMY LIPPITT

way through the pages of the notebook, stopping here and there to taste the flavor of a word or a sentence. He came to an abrupt halt at Marge Barron's repudiation of the soil.

Bonita, California

#### NEW YORK REVISITED

Lines composed while doing four weeks' accumulated mending:

It's dusk along the Avenue
With myriad busses plying.
We walk, as to a martial air
With glorious banners flying;
We dodge and duck to green
and red,

On what celestial strains we're fed,

Who never once for many years Have heard ought else beyond our fears

Of never getting back again Where Life is swift and made for men!

Oh, you can have the untrod sod,

The fields untouched except by God,

The quiet sea, the desert wide, For me—"Watch y'step; no seats inside." —M. M. B.

When Henry had finished he said, "Remind me to engage the old dear in a conversation on California Appreciation."

"Oh, don't worry," I countered, "she succumbed years ago, as did the rest of us!"

"Go on! Read the next one," I urged. "It's a sweet lyrical bit by Edith Pfefferkorn. Henry read:

#### THE DAWN

The dawn a message breathes to those

Who turn from night's uneasy hours

To wait its silent coming.

At that hushed moment of the day

O'er earth and sky so softly broods

Our covenant of blessing.

More clear the pattern of God's plan

When calm and courage stir anew

In the quiet of the dawning.

"And here's one of your own that's not so bad," said Henry.

"Edith called it forth by sending me her African Violet—the La Jolla Plum—to enjoy for a day," I answered.

#### THE AFRICAN VIOLET

Starry blue eyes look out at me In beguiling confidence and innocence

Quite selfless in their charm. Is unaffectedness always so effective?

Henry was not to be pushed aside from his original seeking. He turned back to the page of the Atlantic Monthly. "Marion Sturges-Jones certainly comes up with some amusing ones," he said, "How's this?"

#### THE EARTH TURNS

Catch a gardener at his work— Nothing could be drearier: All you see is muddy shoes And a raised posterior!

"That leads me," I said "to invite you to come out and tell me when and where to plant these bulbs. Every garden guide says: 'Plant your bulbs in the fall months for early spring blooming.' I wish they would be more specific," I remarked, running my fingers through my hair distractedly.

From a series devoted to outstanding local horticulturists—

# Eva Kenworthy Gray

AN APPRECIATION

Readers of California Garden will be saddened to learn of the loss of one of our contributors, Eva Kenworthy Gray, well-known hybridizer who passed away in San Diego on July 11, after a short illness.

Mrs. Gray, who was 88 years old, came here from Missouri almost 50 years ago. She loved all flowers but soon made begonias her specialty when she found how they prospered in this climate. Long famous for her success in developing new varieties, she kept up her interest in propagation to the very last. Probably Nelly Bly is the favorite among her creations, partly because of its flowery charm and partly because of its association with a popular song of the time. Local experts sing the praises of Neely Gaddis whose flowers, like fluffy popcorn kernels, are the only all-white blooms among the hirsute fibrous types and several splendid hybrids of the Superba strain are also notable. Some of the products of 30 years of crossbreeding by Mrs. Gray found their way into Europe and England where, during World War II, they were

"You evidently don't trek with the right people," said Henry. "The FLOWER GARDEN BOOK" put out by Sunset Magazine, and published by the Lane Publishing Company of San Francisco, gives you a blow by blow account of each planting in pictures. My copy is in the tool shed, I think."

"How's about finding it for me?" I asked, as I gently propelled him toward the garden door. greeted like old friends by a homesick California soldier.

As a writer, Eva Kenworthy Gray pioneered by publishing in 1931 the first book on begonias in English, which she hand set and printed in her home in Pacific Beach, using her own photographs as illustrations. Thus, at a time when source material was very scarce, she made the results of her intense research available to others. As one of the members of the original Begonia Round Robin that flew from coast to coast, she kept up a voluminous correspondence all her life. For many years she contributed informative articles on begonias to California Garden, The Begonian and other garden publications. She also wrote poetry for other magazines. The accompanying illustration, taken at Rosecroft Gardens, where Mrs. Gray often conferred with Mr. Robinson, shows her in front of his famous begonia hedge.

For her begonia achievements, Eva Kenworthy Gray was made an honorary director of the American Begonia Society. The La Jolla branch of that organization bears her name. Last year, on her 87th birthday, Rudolf Ziesenhenne, brilliant begonia hybridizer of Santa Barbara, presented Mrs. Grav with a plant of a beautiful new begonia species which he had imported from Mexico and named B. Kenworthyi in her honor. This begonia is entirely different from any other so far discovered, having large ivy-shaped leaves, with the frosted color of a purple-red plum. A specimen of this won first prize at the Del Mar fair.

Though a quiet person, Mrs. Gray was intensely enthusiastic



Eva Kenworthy Gray

over her plants. She was one of the first to use a large bottle placed on its side for seed propagation, and was never so happy as when demonstrating its merits and results to an interested amateur. Her articles show a whimsical humor and her modesty is attested to by the fact that in her book, she did not lay claim to her own hybrids.

One daughter, Helen McCabe, of Encanto, with whom Mrs. Gray spent her last years, has always been interested in succulents. Ethel Calloway, her La Jolla daughter, whose garden has long been a mecca for begonia fanciers, has been successful in perpetuating all her mother's fine hybrids, growing them with many other superb specimens in a lathhouse that serves as living tribute of an appreciative daughter to a talented mother.—A. M. C.

Patronize Our Advertisers

Working from landscape plans designed in the office of the Park and Recreation Department, volunteer workers in Encanto prove that a barren hillside slope can become a successful

# Playground-Park Transformation

Transforming a barren hillside slope into a beautiful park overnight was the task which volunteers undertook last spring in the community of Encanto, at the corner of 65th and Broadway. With a score of civic-minded people interested in making the Encanto Community Center a more beautiful place in which to play and work, and with men, women and children planting flowering shrubs and trees, the playground-park was landscaped in the short time of one week-end last April.

Working from landscape plans designed by Harold L. Curtiss in the office of the Park and Recreation Department, and utilizing plants grown in the municipal nursery in Balboa Park, these 20 or so volunteers, under the leadership of Ollie Randall, Chairman of the Encanto Recreation Committee, and with the counsel of Dale Pyle, District Recreation Supervisor, undertook the landscape development of this five acre municipal area. They realized that a well organized community planting program depends to a great extent upon the initiative behind it. They were sure that a neat, well-kept municipal playgroundpark is a focal project around which the whole community can be encouraged to plant for the everlasting satisfaction of property owners. Though they started out solely with aesthetic objectives, they have found that making a community more beautiful by planting is "good business."

And so they organized and went to work. In that one week-end in April these men, women and children planted nearly 500 sturdy trees and flowering shrubs. To do this they employed the services of a tractor driver and tractor-operated tree hole-digger which cost the Recreation Committee less than 50 dollars for the two days. The photograph illustrates the operation of the tree hole-digger. A pink oleander is being planted by Cato Mead who has just set the plant in the hole, while Earl Miller, Senior Recreation Leader at the Community Center, stands with a shovel behind the tree hole-digger ready to backfill the soil around the roots of another shrub being planted. Ollie Randall, standing at the left with landscape plan is supervising.

Other volunteers among the public-spirited property owners of Encanto who assisted in the land-scaping include Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bucknell, Barnard Davis, Henry Boyd, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kerr, Paul Kelly, Al J. Lynn, Caretaker of the Encanto Community Center grounds, Bill McClure, John Maloney, Earl Miller, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Ricketts and Neil

Ricketts, John Smith, Jerri Wetzel, Principal Recreation Leader at this community center, John and Anthony Sesiakowski and Benny Sortiallon. Cato Mead, Gardener in the Park Division of the Park and Recreation Department, in charge of the Formal Gardens in Balboa Park, was the energetic foreman of planting, seeing to it that shrubs and trees were planted correctly, in holes large enough to encourage growth, and with generous-sized basins for irrigation during the summer season.

Special mention should be given Al Lynn for the way in which he has irrigated and cultivated the landscaped areas which have shown remarkable progress in the short time since the planting. Much weeding is necessary the first year.

A number of beautiful vistas will be created when these plantings have reached a more mature stage. This will be due in part to the care exercised in the grouping and arrangement of flowering



Landscaping of Encanto Community Center, 65th and Broadway, showing tractor operated tree-hole digger and planting of shrubs and trees by volunteers.

After consulting the expert, Wilfred Landry, Sally Bancroft conveys the hope that someday Southern California may come i..to its own in producing narcissi.

# Narcissi in Southern California

SALLY BANCROFT

From "Daffy-down-dillies" to "Hosts of golden daffodils" in poetry, in literature, through gardening books and periodicals narcissi have been acclaimed and celebrated. For more than 300 years some species of narcissi have been known as cultivated plants. Their name is believed to have been derived from the myth of the Greek youth, Narcissus, whose story is told in the book "Garden Facts and Fancies" by Alfred C. Hottes.

At one time daffodils were classed as the large trumpet flowers with crowns equaling or surpassing the perianth segments in length. Now the name daffodil is commonly used interchangeably with narcissus. They are native to Central Europe and the Mediterranean region and eastward through Asia to China and Japan. Probably 25 or 30 species represent the original stock. Most specie bulbs in this country originated in the Spanish Pyrennes region. It is well known that many bulb

specimens and ornamental shrubs, as worked out in advance on the landscape plan. This plan calls for masses of the following varieties, planted in groups of 25 to 50 each: Blue Plumbago, Australian Bluebell (Plumbago capensis and Sollya heterophylla); Duranta repens (plumieri), Double Pink Flowerng Hibiscus (rosa-sinensis Aloha), Lantana camara, the Bush Lantana; Ileander Nerium, the choice Carissa or Natalplum (Carissa grandiflora). Tree groupings included Acacia baileyana and Acacia longifolia, Populus nigra italica, Pittosporum undulatum, the Monterey Pine and others.

plants were first cultivated as food sources, but narcissi do not seem to have been among them. Because of the bitter taste even gophers and moles leave them alone though they may push them around. Cultivated narcissi were once divided into three main groups. Now the Royal Horticultural Society lists 11 by number with numerous sub-divisions. Though these most beautiful of spring flowering bulbs have been cultivated for so many years, their breeding has been done for little more than 60 years to any extent.

Every plant has its favorite growing conditions. After learning of the ideal or natural climates for daffodils it is most amazing to see the kind of flowers that are grown in Southern California-a marvel that they are even planted at all. Some varieties grow wild in England. There in the British Isles most all daffodils may be planted anywhere and keep right on producing year after year in a climate where the rainfall is from 40 to 100 inches per year, and where the summers are cool and moist. In Holland on extremely flat land only a few feet above water level, canals run between the narcissi plots which are about one acre each and divided by neat hedges. Before daffodils can be planted, the canal gates are closed, the water level is raised to within six inches of the top of the soil, allowed to stand 24 hours, then the gates are opened and the water drained. The roots are practically floating in water! And of course there is much rainfall. Because of the amount of rain that falls in our own Northwest, Jan de Graff,

largest daffodil grower in the United States has located in Gresham, Oregon.

Here in Southern California where the summer soil temperature is so high, and where great reliance is placed upon artificial watering, to grow lovely daffodils is quite another proposition. It is impossible to plant them in lawns or just anywhere as in England, and definitely unwise to plant them among shrubbery with the hope that they will add lovely color near the ground each spring.

There are a number of field growers of King Alfred daffodils in this area who supply the florists. And there are some hybridizers. Of these, Tom Craig, near Escondido, is one. Wilfred Landry, Encinitas, Calif., is another who "is attempting to grow daffodils that love our climate, something that will grow without too much babying, and with a decent stem and flower. The difficulty with most imported varieties is that, not liking our climate, the stems are too short."

For the 12 years that Mr. Landry has specialized in daffodil breeding in Southern California. he has spent the last four years in San Diego County. He advises that from May 15 to September 1 narcissi must be kept "bone dry" in order to avoid rotting of bulbs which is all too apt to happen in our high summer soil temperatures. The bulbs should all be planted the very first part of September and watered weekly at least. Here in Southern California where there is good drainage it is almost impossible to give too much

Early planting develops a good root system, making nice fat bulbs to get the most from the spring season. If it is possible, the soil should be prepared one year in advance with manure dug in 12 inches. But where daffodils are desired for next spring, without time to wait a full year, bone meal dug in under the planting is excellent. One of the fastest ways to lose bulbs is to use fertilizers containing nitrogen! Manure, rotted or otherwise must not touch the bulbs, which should be dug and replanted every two or three years to a depth of six inches. Aphis do not seem to bother the plants although aphis and thrip will attack the blooms. A fly whose larva infest the plants in the north has never yet been found in the bulbs this far south.

For successful plants in the home garden it is best not to try novelties yet unproven in Southern California. King Alfred is still one of the best self-colored yellow trumpeted flowers, recognized as a standard because of its length of stem, purity of color, and correctness of form. It is grown by tens of millions. The best all yellow, deep gold giant trumpeted daffodil Mr. Landry has seen in Southern California is Galway. The flower is larger than King Alfred with smoother and wider perianth segments. Furthermore, from one Galway bulb in five years 54 more have developed! Another good all vellow, really deep golden colored daffodil is St. Issey, growing taller and smoother than King Alfred.

The white trumpet flowers do not care too well for our growing conditions. Broughshane is becoming acclimated and did fairly well for Mr. Landry last year. But near trumpets, white and pale bicolors that fade to white do very well. Tunis, a tall, healthy, strong grower, is an inexpensive bulb,

makes an excellent garden plant and cut flower though not as smooth as some of the newer varieties. Whitehouse is beautiful in every respect with better form and substance than Tunis, but is a little higher priced.

Among short cup yellows and yellow reds are many which have proved successful in this climate. Fortune is well known, a strong yellow red. Pale all-yellow St. Egwin produces a large, smooth tall fower. Narvik, Dialite, Carbineer, Porthilly, Krakatoa are others. Polindra is a beautiful flower with shirt yellow cup and white perianth. Jeanhood bears a yellow and red cup with white perianth and is a tall, healthy grower. Kopriva and Kilimanjaro are also fine, while Rubra is one for late bloom.

The Barii and Poeticus narcissi bloom too late in the season and have been proven not to do well in Southern California. Triandus, Jonquilla, and Cyclamineus varieties are all subject to virus diseases in our climate while the Tazettas do not even seem to come out of the ground.

Daffodil breeders for the past 15 years have been working to develop a good pink flower. They are coming closer all the time to a

perfect pink.

The above named bulbs are but a few of some 400 varieties with which Mr. Landry has worked. Some bulbs excellent for growing in the damp and cooler climate simply die here, or produce poor foliage, short stems, or are subject to virus diseases. From many good plants Mr. Landry has made thousands of crosses, now has some 40,000 seedlings coming on. It takes an average of five years to produce a new blooming narcissus from seed, with no two exactly alike. There is always some little difference in color or form. One in a thousand may be of such beauty in substance, form and color that Mr. Landry raves over it until his friends feel he is perchance "a little whacky." When the season is over, when the foliage is dry and brown again, he can agree with them. Yet he continues year after year to search for and to develop daffodils for Southern California that are the equals of those grown in England, Holland, or anywhere in the world.

# Welsh Daffodil Show B. H. HADDOCK

A daffodil show under the sponsorship of the Cambrian (Welsh) Society of San Diego County will be held in the Floral Association Building in Balboa Park on Saturday, March 1, 1952. This event will be a part of the Diamond Jubilee celebration of the society which was formed on March 1, 1892 under the leadership of the late George Holmes, a native of Holyhead, Wales.

This event will be open to all comers and suitable prizes will be offered. Applications for entry blanks should be made to David J. Leyshon, 4593 36th Street, San Diego 16. Committee in charge of the show: Edgar G. Davies, chairman, Mrs. Elias P. Jones, Dr. Mabel Morgan Colby, Miss Jeannette C. Morgan, Dr. Gladys Morgan Lyle, Griffith H. Griffith and Benjamin H. Haddock. Mr. Griffith will also head a special committee on awards. The Floral association will be asked to appoint a committee of judges to cooperate with the society.

For many centuries the leek has been the best-known emblem of the Welsh nation, but in recent years the daffodil has been recognized as the Welsh national flower. It is believed that the proposed local show will be the first of its kind held by a Welsh organization in this country.

#### JUNIOR GARDENERS' **PLEDGE**

I promise to help protect birds, plants, trees and flowers everywhere; to help make my community healthful and beautiful and not throw candy wrappers, fruit peels or paper on streets, sidewalks or lawns, no matter whether I am walking or riding in a car.

I will be as careful of other people's places and things as I would like them to be of mine; and will do my best to sow seeds or plant flowers or a tree at least once a year.

from

Junior Gardeners of Santa Ana

# HILLDALB Chrysanthemum

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#### Fall Nature Walks

BAYARD H. BRATTSTROM

As usual, the Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego, will offer its free Saturday Nature Walks this Fall and Spring. The walks begin in October, continue until June, and are open to any interested person. The Fall schedule has just been planned and includes several walks of interest to the horticulturist.

PALMS: October 6. The palms cultivated in Balboa Park will be studied under the leadership of Miss Joanne James of the Museum Staff. Discussions of the Economic and Horticultural uses of these palms will be given. The group will meet in front of the Natural History Museum at 9:30 A.M.

MARINE ALGAE: October 13. Of interest to the Zoologist, Botanist, and Hobbyist, these interesting and colorful marine plants found at Bird Rock will be studied under the leadership of Jack Littlepage of the Museum Staff. Methods of collecting and mounting for display will be demonstrated.

CHAPARRAL: October 20. The native Fall plants of Fairmount (Mahogany) Canyon,

many of which are used in California gardens, will be studied on this Saturday. The group will meet at 9:30 AM at the N.E. corner of Fairmount Ave. and El Cajon Blvd.

CHRISTMAS TREES: December 22. The Conifers and their allies, some of which are used as Christmas Trees, that are found growing in Balboa Park will be studied on this appropriate Saturday. The group will meet in front of the Natural History Museum at 9:30 AM.

#### SCHEDULE OF WALKS

#### OCTOBER

6 —Palms of Balboa Park—Miss James, 9:30 AM

13—Marine Algae of Bird Rock—Mr. Little-page, 1:30 PM 20—Fall Plants of Fairmount (Mahogany) Canyon—Miss James, 9:30 AM 27—Birds of Presidio Park—Mr. Sams, 9:30

#### NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER

3 —Reptiles and Amphibians of Alvarado Canyon—Miss James, 9:30 AM

10—Marine Animals of Bird Rock—Mr. Littlepage, 1:30 PM

17—Birds of Coronado Strand—Mr. Sams, 9:30 AM

24—Fossil Collecting at Pacific Beach—Miss James, 1:00 PM

#### DECEMBER

1 —Winter Birds of State College Campus
—Mr. Sams, 9:30 AM
8 —Geology of the San Diego Region—
Miss Helms, 9:30 AM
15 —Birds and Marine Animals of a Sandy
Beach—Mr. Sams & Mr. Littlepage,
2:30 —Mr. Sams & Mr. Littlepage,

-Brids and warne Animals of a Sandy Beach—Mr. Sams & Mr. Littlepage, 2:30 PM -Christmas Trees of Balboa Park—Miss James, 9:30 AM

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Some fall planting hints in

## Your Garden

Elliot M. Albright

In planning your garden for September, October and November there are many flowers to be started either from seed or young plants—to name a few—Calendula, Candytuft, Bachelor button, Clarkia, Cosmos, African daisy, Godetia, Annual gypsophila, Mexican Tulip poppies, Salpiglossis, Sweetwilliam, Sweet Alyssum, Sweetpeas, Virginia stocks, Stocks, Snapdragons and wildflower mixture—these annuals do well in exposed sunny locations. For the shaded winter spots, take care to use only those varieties which are adapted to the darker and cooler conditions, such as Begonias of all kinds, Aquiligia or Columbine, Cineraria, Primula, African Violets, Geum, Lobelia, Pansies, Penstemon, Violets, Violas, Cyclamen, Delphinium and Digitalis.

For the table, sow in September: Beets, Bush Beans, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Carrots, Cress, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Leeks, Lettuce, Mustard, Onion, Onion sets, Parsley, Parsnips, Peas, Radish, Salsify, Spinach, Swiss Chard, Turnips—and, if you enjoy winter squash, Winter Butternut.

Latest insecticide, and apparently the one giving best results, contains Chlordane and Sethane combined, comes in liquid or powder form. Permanent eradication is impossible, but continued use every two weeks will keep most insects, including ants, under control, and will give plants a chance to progress normally. Fungicides, in either liquid or powder form, should be applied to plants and soil underneath every two weeks.

Use more fertilizer for Chrysan-

themums, something heavy in phosphoricide, such as super phosphate, or fine grained bone meal, for bloom development—for long stems, more nitrogen (a pinch of Ammonium Sulphate or blood meal.) Liquid fertilizers are good because of quick assimilation. A good well-balanced commercially mixed fertilizer saves time and guesswork.

Bulbs go in now—prepare soil by breaking up and mixing with organic material to prevent packing. Proper fertilizer to use is one containing large percentage of potash, which strengthens the woody fiber. Bulb Food, a commercial plant food, produces excellent flowers. To mention a few popular bulbs for planting now—Chinese lilies, Daffodils, Jonquils, Freesias, Gladioli, Callas, Iris Cannas, Tulips, Hyacinth, Snowdrops, Tigerlilies, Grape Hyacinth, Oxalis, Anemones and Watsonia. Most bulbs can be planted either in shade or sun.

Mulch around your deciduous fruit trees and begin feeding through winter months, for that heavy crop of fruit next spring.

## Brief History of Coronado Floral Association

EVE P. SLOAT

The Coronado Floral Association was formed by a small group of flower enthusiasts in 1922, opening the first year with a few displays — mostly roses, on several card tables in Plaza Park, Coronado. Within the next few years as the spring show grew in size a tent to house the exhibits (in those days the tent was called a "hangar") was loaned to the association by the Naval Air Station (at that time known as Rockwell Field and operated by the Army). In still later years the large canvas enclosure, in use today, was donated by a Coronadan.

The Spring Flower Show, primarily a "Rose Show" has expanded every year until today it covers an area approximately 150 x 250 feet, attracts nearly 2000 exhibitors, with 3000 exhibits, and in the two day show draws nearly 5000 paid admissions. The show is divided into 15 sections with about 150 classifications. Judging is handled by out-of-city judges, operating under standard rules, with the rose

section based on the rules of the American Rose Society.

All officers, elected at an annual meeting following the spring show, serve for one year. There are no paid employees. Membership in the Association totals 935 this year at a fee of \$1.00 each. Membership includes the Spring Show as well as the monthly lectures from October to June. These lectures include a horticulture talk by a well qualified speaker, frequently colored garden slides, and gardening guides. Refreshments are served at the close of these meetings.

All aspects of the show have been on a civic plane. Membership is open to all residents of the city, and all sections of the show are open to all exhibitors.

All equipment of the Association is stored and cared for by the City of Coronado, and all labor required in setting up the tent, display tobles, and electric wiring is supplied free by City labor. Only by this cooperation has the Association been able to retain the fiftycent general admission.

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